

the Resource

A publication to increase awareness of mental health and substance use disorder issues in our community.



Collaboration is Key

Connecting Mental Health Services & Criminal Justice System

The Mental Health & Recovery Board is joining forces with Portage County agencies and courts to serve people with mental illness and substance use disorders who become involved with the criminal justice system.

Criminal Center of Excellence (NEOMED) Task Forces

In November 2014 a group of stakeholders, service providers, consumers, family members, and advocates came together for a workshop conducted by the Ohio's Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence regarding jail diversion for individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders in Portage County.

The group used the "Sequential Intercept Model," to develop the map shown below. "From this mapping we can obtain a better understanding of points of intervention where we can focus our efforts in keeping people with mental illness and/or substance use disorders out of the legal system entirely or at least help them reenter the community and avoid returning to the criminal justice system," explained Joel

Mowrey, PhD, executive director of the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County.

An action plan was developed for workgroups to 1) explore the need and ability of having local detox services and Medication Assisted Treatment (e.g., Suboxone) in Portage County, 2) explore female specific jail and treatment options to address jail overcrowding, and 3) focus on jail and prison discharge planning services and reentry.

Mental Health Jail Diversion

Led by Portage County Municipal Court Judge Barbara Oswick, the Mental Health Jail Diversion program enables individuals with mental illness who have misdemeanor charges to have these charges removed from their record by following through with treatment and probation for a year. This diversion program has a strong collaborative relationship between the Municipal



Attending the event to launch the Community Innovations Grant were: front row, Muni Judge Barbara Oswick, OMHAS Director Tracy Plouck, County Commissioner Maureen Frederick; second row: MHRB Chairman William Nome, MHRB Executive Director Dr. Joel Mowrey, Sheriff David Doak, County Commissioner Sabrina Christian-Bennett and OMHAS Medical Director Dr. Mark Hurst.

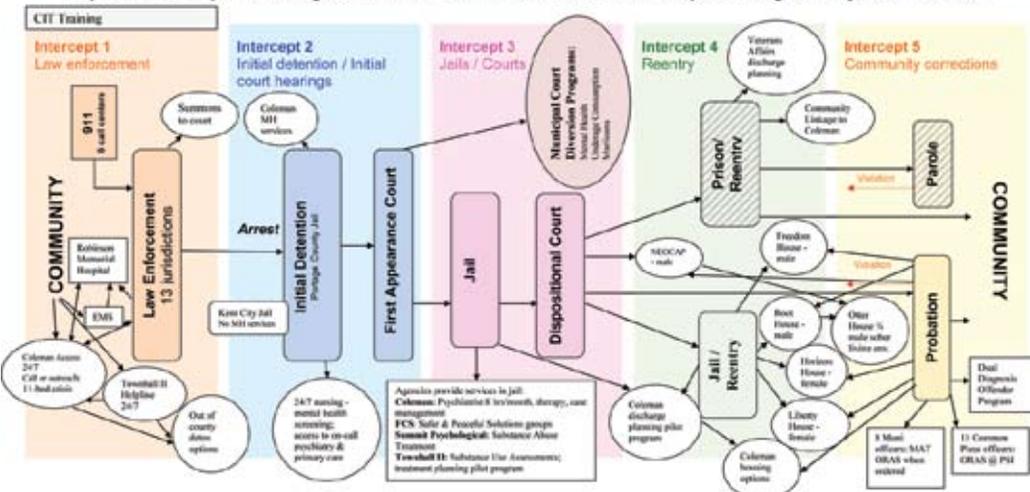
Court, Probation, Mental Health & Recovery Board, and Coleman Professional Services.

"The mental health diversion program has not resulted in increased costs to either the mental health/recovery or the criminal justice systems. This program efficiently utilizes the time of the Judge, probation officers and treatment providers to provide excellent collaboration," said Mowrey.

Portage County Community Innovations Grant

The Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County received \$106,000 to help inmates with addictions and mental illness transition back into the community safely and with support to put them on the road to recovery. The MHRB's local partners are Townhall II, Coleman Professional Services, the Portage County Sheriff's Office and the Summa Center for the Treatment and Study of Traumatic Stress. Portage County mental health advocates, addiction prevention advocates and law enforcement officials gathered for the launch of the Portage County Community Innovations Grant. Portage is one of a number of counties

Sequential Intercepts for Change: Criminal Justice - Mental Health Partnerships – Portage County, November 2014



Director's Desk

Handcuffs or Healing

Portage County has seen an unprecedented number of people dying from drug overdoses these past few months. We're only five months into this year, and we've already had 12 residents die from drug overdose. In 2011, five Portage County residents died from drug overdose. In 2014, the number rose to 27 deaths.

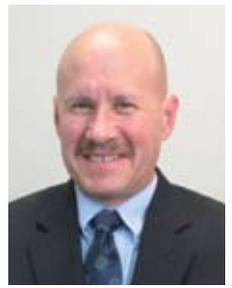
With the recent increase in deaths attributed to overdose from opiates in Portage County, we hear more people asking – "What are we doing to stop this?" I wish we had a simple answer but the solution is complicated. We do have a number of efforts ongoing that span the range of interventions needed in a recovery-oriented system of care to address the overall problem of substance use disorders: Education and prevention programs, primarily with our children and youth; detoxification; outpatient and residential treatment for youth and adults; and a focus on jobs, housing, transportation, and social supports. At the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Portage County, we work closely with Coleman Professional Services, Townhall II, Family &

Community Services, and Children's Advantage to provide prevention, treatment, and supportive services, especially dealing with issues of trauma that underlie many mental health and substance use disorders. We are working with our Common Pleas courts to start a specialty docket drug court. Our police/Sheriff and drug task force arrest people who are trafficking and manufacturing drugs that are directly related to increased deaths by overdose (e.g., heroin laced with the more toxic drug, fentanyl). But for individuals who are addicted to substances, we need to view addiction as a disease and a public health problem rather than a criminal problem. We need to focus on treatment and the reduction of stigma around seeking help for an addiction that is a mixture of biological, psychological and social factors.

We cannot stop people from using substances by simply arresting them and adding to our jail overcrowding problem. Certainly individuals with substance use disorders who commit crimes (e.g., violence, driving

under the influence) need to be held accountable for their actions in addition to getting treatment to prevent further crimes. But for those just possessing substances (including alcohol), a treatment-oriented approach will get people the help they need while decreasing court and jail costs. Sitting in jail only results in delaying treatment and often prevents individuals from being employed due to their criminal record. Keeping people out of the criminal justice system enhances peoples' ability to obtain treatment and employment to become productive members of our society.

We still need more treatment and supportive services in Portage County for both substance use disorders and mental health problems, including medication assisted treatment (Suboxone). But we also look to our entire community for help and support to provide an even better continuum of care for our residents in need.



Public Health Priorities: Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder

The mental health & recovery needs of Portage County residents were included in the health assessment conducted by the Portage County Community Health Partnership. The group was comprised of Kent State University Public Health Department and University Health Services, NEOMED, Hiram College, Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County, Robinson Memorial Hospital, United Way, PARTA, Planned Parenthood, Sheriff's Department, AxessPointe, Kent Environmental Council, and community representatives. The five top perceived needs resulting from this process were:

- Unhealthy weight in children
- Untreated mental health issues
- Drug overdoses
- Drug use
- Child abuse and neglect



The Board is continuing to work with the Portage County Health Department, Kent City Health Department and The Center for Health Affairs to complete the community health improvement plan (CHIP).

Collaboration Is Key

(continued from page 1)

benefitting from the grant program out of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. The department has distributed \$3 million in the past two years across Ohio.

Stepping Up Program

The Stepping Up Program is a new national initiative that calls for counties to convene a team of agency leaders to review problems like recidivism rates, and how those are affected by the availability or lack of services and treatment programs that would take them out of the court system for infractions that result from a non-violent drug habit or mental illness. Dr. Mowrey will lead the Portage County committee.

Throughout these and other efforts, the Board hopes to safely reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jail.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

The Board initiated and supported the Downtown Ravenna Outreach Program that assesses the needs of individuals in downtown Ravenna and makes services available to those who can benefit from them.

The Board sponsored a Trauma Informed Care training for counselors from Children’s Advantage.

The Board held a Suicide Survivor Day event in addition to our monthly survivor support group meetings and participation in the Suicide Prevention Coalition.

Root House, a residential men’s recovery facility, was named Best Community Services Program at the first annual Visioning In Portage Awards event during Celebrating Portage County Week.

Portage County was awarded a Community Innovations Grant by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and selected as the site for the media announcement for all the grants across the state.

The Board funded Peer Support services for consumers to help other consumers who have mental health problems.

HELPING PORTAGE CHILDREN & ADULTS IN 2014

338 children and teens received treatment for trauma, emotional problems, mental illness and substance use disorders.

2,371 adults received treatment for trauma, emotional problems, mental illness and substance use disorders.

26,486 contacts with people through the 24-HR crisis calls, information and referral calls, incidents of walk-in counseling, crisis outreach and screening for hospitalization.

296 adults were served in the Coleman Crisis Stabilization Unit.

4,584 youth and adults participated in prevention education programs.

643 students identified at risk and screened in all Portage County School Districts through a program funded by the Board. 38% were identified as having mental health issues requiring therapy and/or psychiatry services.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman
William Nome

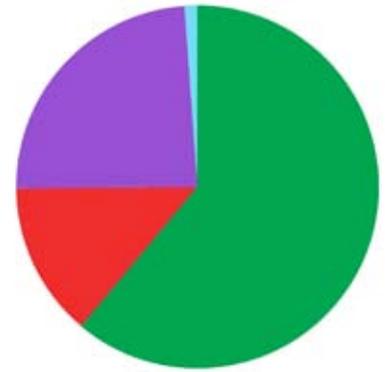
Vice Chairman
Alberta Caetta

Sherrie Brown
Jennifer Colgrove
Karen Cox
Harold Farrier
Maureen Keating
Audrey Cielinski Kessler

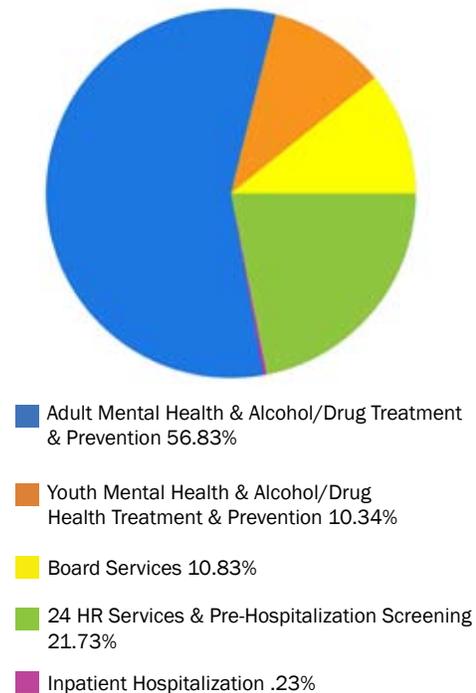
Jeff Langstaff
Laura Mann
Terri McGuckin
Iris J. Meltzer
Gene Mills
Major Dennis Missimi

Charles D. Moore
Emily Schmidlin
Jamie Sitko
Alison Ward

TOTAL LOCAL REVENUE FOR FY 2014:
\$6,969,177



TOTAL LOCAL EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2014:
\$6,014,358



NETWORK OF AGENCIES:

Children’s Advantage
Coleman Professional Services
Family & Community Services
Townhall II

Agency News

Coleman Professional Services

Coleman is preparing to open their new Center of Excellence for Children. This privately funded center will serve as a child-friendly area to support assessment, case management, counseling, and psychiatric services.



A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held July 1 at 5pm for the 10,000-square-foot building which is adjacent to the Coleman facility already located at 5982 Rhodes Road on the east side of Kent.

Coleman is also busy with reconstruction of the Phoenix building located in downtown Ravenna. Phase 1 of the building project will house 10 apartments, primarily for individuals with chronic mental illness, retail units, and a café which Coleman plans to own and operate. There are an additional six units planned in a future phase. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held July 8 at 5pm.

Townhall II



Townhall II is holding a Family Program Addiction Series that will provide education and support for the family members and loved ones (adults and children) of individuals recovering from or living with an addiction. The course will be held on Saturdays, July 18 through August 15. Register at 330.346.3031 or amandab@townhall2.com

Agency Staff Presents Trauma Service Information to MHRB Board Members

Members of the Mental Health & Recovery Board attended a Trauma Training in January 2015 to gain a greater understanding about the importance of understanding a client's trauma experience. Representatives from the Board funded agencies, Children's Advantage, Coleman Professional Services, Family & Community Services, and Townhall II shared information about what the agencies are doing to assess for trauma, train staff, and provide treatment services.

Children's Advantage therapist, Nicole Bartlett, presented the Board with a piece of art created by her "Circle of Courage" group, which is made up of teenagers who have experienced trauma and now are on the road to recovery.



Board Supports "Mental Health First Aid" Trainings

Agency support staff attended Mental Health First Aid, an international program designed to help members of the general public assist those experiencing a mental crisis. The trainings were led by Ashley Baden, a crisis intervention specialist at Coleman Access. The course teaches a basic understanding of what different mental illnesses and addictions are, how they can affect a person's daily life, and what helps individuals experiencing these challenges get well. Another goal of Mental Health First Aid is to break down stigma surrounding mental health issues and the barriers to care, which is extremely important.

The Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County paid for Baden to attend a weeklong training in Columbus last year and will continue to support the program.

Prevention & treatment services funded by the Board are provided by our service agencies.

Children's Advantage

Children's Advantage will celebrate its 40th anniversary this summer.



To mark this milestone, the Record Courier will publish a special section about the history of the agency, interviews with staff, and information about current services. Join us in congratulating them by placing an ad in this special newspaper keepsake. Contact Karyn at 330.673.1756 for rates and information.



Children's Advantage welcomed Winola S. Amodio, DPN, as the organization's medical director. Amodio earned her doctorate in nursing

practice and a master's degree from Kent State University with a focus on Mental Health Nursing.

At Children's Advantage, Dr. Amodio is responsible for the day-to-day activities in the clinic including: evaluations, ongoing appointments, and the monitoring of prescribed medications as appropriate.

Family & Community Service

Family & Community Services is pleased to announce the finalization of property acquisition for the Women's Recovery Housing project that has been underway since the end of 2014.



The purchase of a 12 unit apartment building will provide a temporary residence for up to 22 women to continue their sobriety and journey to recovery. Women who participate in the program will be offered a variety of treatment and holistic care related to recovery for drugs and alcohol. F&CS is currently looking to open the program in July.

Retirement Celebration

Staff and Board members of the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County hosted a farewell reception for retiring Director of Community Relations Amie Cajka in Dec. 2014. Colleagues from mental health and recovery agencies, family, friends and community leaders stopped by to wish her well as she begins a new adventure. Amie was with the board for more than 28 years.

The Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County thanks Amie Cajka for her years of service as Community Relations Director and wishes her the best in her retirement!

- 1: Nelson Burns, CEO Coleman Professional Services & Amie.
 2: Sue Whitehurst, CEO Townhall II & Amie. 3: Paul Dages, Townhall II, Amie, & Joe Cavaretta, Red Cross. 4: Joel Mowrey, PhD, MHRB with Board Members William Nome & Jennifer Colgrove. 5: Amie & Frank Hairston, PARTA. 6: The past MHRB Executive Directors - Roberta O'Keefe, Hal Farrier, Suzanne Hetrick, with current Executive Director Joel Mowrey. 7: Commissioner Maureen Frederick reads a proclamation honoring Amie. 8: Suzanne Hetrick with MHRB Board member Gene Mills.



In the Community



The Portage County Republican Women's Club invited the Mental Health & Recovery Board to attend one of their monthly meetings and to share information about substance use disorders and the impact of this public health problem on individuals, families and the larger community. Dr. Joel Mowrey is pictured in the photo to the left with the President of the Republican Woman's Club, Jeneen Kubala.

Members of the Winfield Church of God in Christ located in Ravenna welcomed Joel Mowrey, PhD and Sheriff David Doak to discuss mental illness, drug abuse, community policing and the Crisis Intervention Team program. Coming together after the meeting with attendees are Dr. Joel Mowrey, Sheriff Doak, Geraldine Nelson, Pastor Dennis Richey, and RL Sanders.



The Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County was honored by the NAACP at the 2015 Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast. The Board was presented with a certificate of appreciation for years of service and contribution to the event. Pictured from left, Mental Health & Recovery Board member Dennis Missimi, NAACP President Geraldine Nelson, Board Executive Director Dr. Joel Mowrey, Board Community Relations Director Karyn Hall, and Prayer Breakfast Chairperson Deborah Austin Sanders.

Would your community group or organization be interested in having someone from the Mental Health & Recovery Board speak at a meeting? Contact Karyn Hall at karynh@mental-health-recovery.org or 330.673.1756 ext 207



New State Legislator Visits Mental Health & Recovery Board

State Representative Sarah LaTourette visited the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Portage County's office to learn more about the mental health and recovery services provided to residents of the county funded by the Board through four local agencies – Children's Advantage, Coleman Professional Services, Family & Community Services, and Townhall II. LaTourette was elected in the fall of 2014 to represent the 76th District that includes Aurora, Freedom, Garrettsville, Hiram, Mantua, Nelson, Shalersville, and Windham.

Front Row from left: Sara Roberts, Clinical Counseling Supervisor at Family and Community Services; Mary McCracken, Clinical Director at Children's Advantage; Representative Sarah LaTourette; Alberta Caetta, Mental Health & Recovery Board Vice Chairperson; Sandy Myers, Vice President & Chief Officer of Behavioral Health & Rehabilitation at Coleman Professional Services. Back row from left: Dr. Joel Mowrey, Executive Director of the Mental Health & Recovery Board; Chuck Tuttle, Executive Director at Children's Advantage; Sue Whitehurst, Executive Director at Townhall II; and Rob Young, Clinical Director at Townhall II.

Calendar of Events!

Substance Use & Abuse:

A Portage County Epidemic

Thursday, June 25 • 9am-3pm
Ravenna Elks Lodge

The Crisis Intervention Team Education Collaboration Training

July 27-31

Streetsboro Police Department

Cost \$100. Registration Open:

Call 330.673.1756 or online

www.mental-health-recovery.org/citec

NAMI Walk

Sept 26, 2015

Enews Debut

In order to deliver our news more frequently and cost effectively, the Mental Health & Recovery Board will pilot an electronic newsletter. If you would still like to have one mailed to you, please contact Laura at 330.673.1756 ext 201. If you would like to be on our email mailing list, email laurab@mental-health-recovery.org or visit our website to sign up at www.mental-health-recovery.org